

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7225

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

JCS WASHDC

DIVENGR MED LEGHORN ITALY

S E C R E T KUWAIT 2674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MASS, KU

SUBJECT: US-KUWAITI MILITARY PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 130656

1. COL. MURPHREE, COL. KELLY, MR. MCCORMICK (COE, MED DIV)
AND I CALLED ON MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD JULY 24. INTRODUCED COL.
MURPHREE AS CHIEF OF NASCENT US MILITARY GROUP AND EXPLAINED
COL. KELLY'S TDY ROLE (SEE REFTEL). MINDEF GREETED THEM WARMLY
AND SAID HE WOULD ARRANGE CALL FOR US ON CHIEF OF STAFF MUBARAK
WHO IN TRUN WOULD LAUNCH COL. MURPHREE WITH SENIOR ELEMENTS
KUWAITI MILITARY.

2. WE TOOK OCCASION TO IMPRESS UPON MINDEF NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION
ON PLANNING AND DESIGN OF AIR BASE, JOC AND ALTERNATE AIRSTRIPS.
MR. MCCORMICK EXPLAINED SUBJECT IN BROAD OUTLINE, AND MINDEF
STATED HE WOULD AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE KUWAITI MILITARY OFFICERS TO
RECIEVE BRIEFING BY CORP OF ENGINEERS MED DIV REF (SOPER, WHO
NOW IN KUWAIT).

3. MINDEF RAISED SUBJECT OF LOW-LEVEL CAPABILITY OF IMPROVED HAWK,
ONCE AGAIN INDICATING THAT MISCONCEPTION WITHIN KUWAITI ESTABLISH-
MENT RE THIS ASPECT HAWK CAPABILITIES STILL REMAINS. WE STRONGLY

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EMPHASIZED THAT IMPROVED HAWK HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AT LOW-LEVEL AS WELL

AS HIGHER LEVEL AND OFFERED EITHER FURTHER BRIEFING ON IMPROVED HAWK IN KUWAIT OR TO ARRANGE VISIT BY KUWAITI OFFICERS TO CONUS OR ELSEWHERE AS FEASIBLE TO INSPECT IMPROVED HAWK. MINDEF SAID MATTER WOULD BE STUDIED FURTHER. HE AGREED TO MY REQUEST THAT GOK NOT RPT NOT SIGN CONTRACT FOR ANY OTHER SAM MISSILE SYSTEM UNTIL KUWAIT MILITARY HAD RECEIVED FURTHER BRIEFING ON IMPROVED HAWK OR HAD INSPECTED IT.

BASICALLY, HOWEVER, HE SEEMED REASSURED REGARDING HAWK PERFORMANCE.

4. ON JULY 25 COLS. MURPHREE AND KELLY, SOPER OF COE AND I CALLED ON CHIEF OF STAFF MUBARAK WHO EQUALLY WARM IN HIS WELCOME. HE ASKED COL. MURPHREE START WORK WITH KUWAITI MILITARY ON SATURDAY, JULY 28. MUBARAK ASSIGNED TO COL. ABD AL-AZIZ SAYEGH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGING SOPER'S BRIEFING ON AIRBASE/JOC CONSTRUCTION. ADDITIONALLY, MUBARAK INDICATED PERSONAL SATISFACTION THAT HAWK PERFORMANCE NOW UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED.

5. MUBARAK ALSO INDICATED KUWAITI ARMY TEAM HAS BEEN SELECTED TO VISIT CONUS TO INSPECT M60 TANKS, APCS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. HE ANTICIPATED MINDEF'S APPROVAL FOR THIS VISIT WITHIN DAY OR TWO.

6. COMMENT: KUWAITIS OBVIOUSLY VERY PLEASED AT ARRIVAL COL. MURPHREE AND PRESENCE COL. KELLY AND SEEM GENERALLY AWARE OF MAGNITUDE OF JOB AHEAD IN ESTABLISHING US MILITARY GROUP IN KUWAIT. STOLTZFUS

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